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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

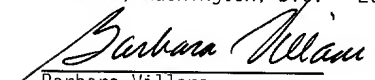
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Applicant(s): F. SHIRATANI

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Filed : Herewith


Barbara Villani

For : 3D IMAGE ACQUISITION
APPARATUS AND 3D
IMAGE ACQUISITION
METHOD

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

Art Unit :
Examiner :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 6 and 7 as follows and add new claims 17-21 as follows:

6. (amended) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said plurality of color components are RGB components.

7. (amended) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the projected predetermined pattern is a stripe pattern or a matrix pattern.

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Please add new claims 17-21 as follows:

--17. (new) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said plurality of color components are RGB components.

18. (new) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein said plurality of color components are RGB components.

19. (new) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the projected predetermined pattern is a stripe pattern or a matrix pattern.

20. (new) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the projected predetermined pattern is a stripe pattern or a matrix pattern.

21. (new) A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein the projected predetermined pattern is a stripe pattern or a matrix pattern.--

R E M A R K S

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a clean copy of amended claims 6 and 7 is set forth in the present Amendment, and a marked-up version of the amended claims 6 and 7 is attached hereto.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LHOLTZ', is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended as follows:

6. **(amended)** A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to claim 2, [3 or 4],

wherein said plurality of color components are RGB components.

7. **(amended)** A 3D image acquisition apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1,

wherein the projected predetermined pattern is a stripe pattern or a matrix pattern.